

## 80s TREND COMPARISONS

### **INTRO:**

The 80s is not a decade we will soon forget – it certainly left its mark, and we have the 80s to thank for inspiring and introducing some of our most popular modern trends. Let's take a closer look at some of the highlights of American culture, THEN and NOW.

### **TOYS & GAMES**

1. Cabbage Patch Dolls vs. American Girl Dolls
2. BMX Bikes vs. Hoverboard
3. Nintendo Gameboy vs. Wii (Nintendo), X-box (Microsoft), Playstation (Sony)
4. Arcade games (Pac-Man, Double Dragon, Street Fighter, Tron) vs. Mobile gaming (tablets / smartphones, Apple / Google app stores)

Cabbage Patch Kids were a hot commodity for young girls in the 80s – each doll had a unique identity, complete with birth certificate. Perhaps the closest thing the 2000s/2010s have to this craze is the American Girl Doll. The American Girl Dolls have a collection of dolls which represent important historical periods, and also a collection of “look-alike” dolls. And every owner of an American Girl Doll is familiar with the Doll Hospital, should anything happen to their doll.

*Other memorable toys from the 80s:*

Strawberry Shortcake

He-Man figures

Rainbow Bright

Jem

Action figures – Star Wars, GI Joe, Transformers Rubik's cube

Gremlins

*Other modern day toys:*

Lego sets

Remote control airplanes

Pokemon cards

### **TECH**

1. Swatch watches vs Apple/smart watches (BOTH are still fashion statements)
2. Cassette player / boombox / Sony Walkman vs iPod/iTunes
3. VCR (videocassette recorder) vs DVD / Blu Ray
4. Polaroid camera vs Instagram

Who could forget the iconic Swatch watch, the rubber wristbands which adorned the wrists of so many back in the 80s? Well, though Swatch is still a well-known brand today, the latest trend is

the smartwatch. Companies like Apple, Sony, and Samsung are competing to put the best smartwatch on the market – watches with Bluetooth connection, touchscreens, fitness tracking, and more. But the best part? The modern-day smartwatch, just like the 80s Swatch watch, is still a fashion statement.

## **MUSIC**

### Heartthrobs

- Prince, Michael Jackson, Bon Jovi VS Usher, Justin Timberlake, Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars

### Leading Ladies of the 80s Music Scene

- Madonna / Cindy Lauper VS Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Taylor Swift
- Whitney Houston / Janet Jackson VS Beyonce, Adele, Mariah Carey, Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Hudson

### MTV then vs MTV now

Music television, or MTV, debuted in 1981 and originally aired music videos almost exclusively. The first Video Music Awards (VMAs) show was hosted in 1984, famous for Madonna's live performance of "Like a Virgin". Today, MTV has transitioned into a channel for reality programming, with the goal of targeting a younger demographic.

## **DANCE**

- Hammer Dance – MC Hammer (Can't Touch This – song for the section)
- Hangin' Tough
- Moonwalk
- Risky business
- Thriller
- African Antelope Ritual (Can't Buy Me Love – Patrick Dempsey)
- The Electric Slide
- Cabbage Patch
- Robot

### Famous Dance Scenes

- Footloose (1984) vs Footloose (2011)
- Thriller (1982) vs 13 Going on 30 (Thriller dance – 2004)
- Dirty Dancing
- Flashdance
- Big – the life size keyboard
- Ferris Bueller's Day Off (flash mob)
- Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

*Modern* – Step Up, High School Musical (choreographed by Kenny Ortega, Dirty Dancing, Material Girl music video, MJ Dangerous World Tour), Moulin Rouge, Pitch Perfect, 13 Going on 30 (Thriller), Footloose (2011)

## **TV / FILM**

### **Celebrity crushes w/ “staying power” (THEN & NOW – side-by-side pictures)**

- Tom Selleck (Magnum PI vs Blue Bloods)
- Johnny Depp (21 Jump St vs Pirates)
- Patrick Dempsey (Can’t Buy Me Love vs Grey’s Anatomy)
- Tom Cruise (Endless Love, Risky Business, Top Gun vs Jack Reacher, Mission: Impossible)
- Kurt Russell (Overboard vs Furious 7)
- Kirk Cameron (Growing Pains vs BLANK)
- John Stamos (Full House vs Fuller House, Necessary Roughness)
- Kevin Bacon (Footloose vs BLANK)
- Harrison Ford (Star Wars, Indiana Jones vs new Star Wars, Indiana Jones)
- Julie Roberts (Steel Magnolias vs Eat Pray Love)
- Alyssa Milano (Who’s the Boss? vs BLANK)
- Tiffani Amber Thiessen (Saved by the Bell vs White Collar)
- Lori Loughlin (Full House vs Fuller House, When Calls the Heart)

## **Sitcoms**

### *ABC then vs ABC now*

Growing Pains, Who’s the Boss?, Diff’rent Strokes VS Modern Family, The Goldbergs, Blackish, The Middle

### *NBC then vs NBC now*

Cheers, The Golden Girls, The Facts of Life, Family Ties VS Parks and Rec, The Office

In the 80s, sitcoms often centered around the family unit and their many misadventures. Lessons are learned and laughs are guaranteed along the way. Today’s sitcoms take this well-loved formula to the extremes – families are diverse, eccentric, and often somewhat dysfunctional. Modern sitcoms like The Office, Parks and Rec, and Modern Family have popularized the “mockumentary” style, in which characters speak directly to the camera (usually to talk about other characters!).

## **Movies**

Modern movies – Avatar, Pirates, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Marvel superhero movies, Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins, 101 Dalmatians (\*live action)

**Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back** (1980)

**Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981)

**Fast Times at Ridgemont High** (1982)

**E.T.** (1982)  
**Blade Runner** (1982)  
**Rambo - First Blood ??** (1982)  
**Return of the Jedi** (1983)  
**National Lampoon's Vacation** (1983)  
**Flashdance** (1983)  
**Valley Girl** (1983)  
**Scarface** (1983)  
**Sixteen Candles** (1984)  
**Ghostbusters** (1984)  
**The Terminator** (1984)  
**Gremlins** (1984)  
**Karate Kid** (1984)  
**Back to the Future** (1985)  
**The Goonies** (1985)  
**Pretty in Pink** (1986)  
**Aliens** (1986)  
**Platoon** (1986)  
**Ferris Bueller's Day Off** (1986)  
**Top Gun** (1986)  
**Dirty Dancing** (1987)  
**Coming to America** (1988)  
**Die Hard** (1988)  
**Big** (1988)  
**When Harry Met Sally** (1989)